

Reducing the work stress among army personnel

909. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of suicides were reported among the soldiers of the country during the last three years;

(b) the measures Government propose to take to reduce the work stress of Army personnel; and

(c) whether Government would appoint more psychiatrists in the Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The total number of suicides reported in the years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 (till 28.2.2007) in the Army, Navy and Air Force are as under:—

Year	Army	Navy*	Air Force
2004	100	05	13
2005	92**	05	23
2006	120	02	24
2007 (Till 28.2.2007)	15	01	04

* The figures include cases of Coast Guard also.

** This includes 15 attempted suicide cases.

(b) Following measures have been taken to reduce the work stress:—

- (i) 50 Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) from Army Medical Corps have been trained as counsellors in Northern and Eastern Commands, where troops are engaged in counter insurgency operations.
- (ii) Religious Teachers, JCOs of Army Education Corps and Regimental Medical Officers have been identified as 'Psychological Health Mentors' at unit level and their services are being utilized accordingly.
- (iii) Training capsules on relaxation exercise including Yoga and Pranayam have been introduced.
- (iv) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress.
- (v) Leave policy has been liberalized permitting splitting of casual and annual leave.

- (vi) All Chief Ministers have been requested to make the civil administration more responsive to the problems of serving soldiers and their families.
 - (vii) Better man management and prompt attendance of grievances at unit level.
 - (viii) Improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with the soldiers.
 - (ix) Augmentation of two psychiatric centres in the insurgency afflicted operation areas one each in the Northern and Eastern sectors, wherein additional psychiatrists have been posted.
- (c) There is sufficient number of psychiatrists in the Army.

**Field firing range in Gumla District,
Jharkhand**

910. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have Field Firing Range, alongwith two cantonments, at Netarhat of Gumla District of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that almost 40 to 50 per cent of the population comprising 2.75 lakh tribals of the District, including some primitive tribes will be displaced;

(c) whether Government are aware that the tribals are likely to be up in arms and will not give up their land, inherited by them for centuries; and

(d) if so, whether Government would stall this project altogether, in order to safeguard the interests of the tribals living there?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) There is no proposal before the Government for setting up a field firing range along with two Cantonments at Netarhat in Gumla district of Jharkhand.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of reply in (a) above.